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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the interview of January 13, 2004. Claims 1 - 40 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification and rejected Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gulick et al. Claims 2, 4 - 6, 8, 10 - 12, 14, 16 - 18, 20, 22 - 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gulick et al. in view of Awada et al.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the Specification, page 13, line 12 has been amended. Specifically, Applicants have added the word "partition" to the Specification as suggested by the Examiner. For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the claims in the Application are allowable over the applied reference. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

The present invention provides a method, system and apparatus for transferring data from one partition of a partitioned computer system to another. As stated in the Specification, each partition is assigned a dedicated part of the memory system of the partitioned computer system. When a first partition needs to transfer data to a second partition, it marks the data, which is located in its dedicated part of the system memory as a "read-only" data. After doing so, the first partition passes the data to the second partition through the use of a pointer.

Thus, the invention does not use a shared memory for passing data between the partitions. This then allows the
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memory system of the partitioned computer system to be fully divided between the partitions.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 1 is illustrative.

1. A method of transferring data from a first partition of a partitioned computer system to a second partition comprising the steps of:

marking a buffer containing the data as a "read-only" buffer, **the buffer being in the first partition;** and

passing a pointer to the buffer to the second partition. (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gulick et al. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Gulick et al. purport to teach a partitioned computer system on which multiple operating systems are executing. In accordance with the teachings of Gulick et al., each partition is assigned a dedicated part of the memory system. In addition, a part of the memory system (i.e., a shared memory) is assigned to or is accessible to all the partitions. When a first partition needs to pass data to a second partition, the first partition stores the data in the shared memory. After doing so, the first partition indicates to the second partition that data is awaiting to be read in the shared memory.

Thus, Gulick et al. do not teach, show or suggest that a first partition of a partitioned computer system passes data to a second partition by marking a buffer, located in its dedicated part of the memory system, as a "read-only" buffer, (see the emboldened-italicized passage in the claim above i.e., **the buffer being in the first partition**) and

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passing a pointer to the buffer to the second partition as claimed.

Consequently, Applicants submit that Claim 1 and its dependent claims should be allowable over the cited reference. Independent Claims 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 25, 29, 33 and 37 and their dependent claims, which all incorporate the above-emboldened-italicized limitations, should be allowable as well. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are once more respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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